

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag. I enjoy the flexibility and control that technology gives me. I can be more than a passive recipient of content; I can modify, create and participate. Technology currently gives me more choices by allowing me to record a television program and watch it later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

Historically, the law has allowed for those not affiliated with creating content to come up with new, unanticipated ways of using it. For example, Sony invented the modern VCR -- a movie studio did not. (Sony did not own a movie studio at the time.) Diamond Multimedia invented the MP3 player -- a recording label did not. Unfortunately, the broadcast flag has the potential to put an end to that dynamic. Because the broadcast flag defines what uses are authorized and which are not, unanticipated uses of content which are not foreseeable today are by default unauthorized. If we allow the content industry to "lock in" the definition of what is and is not legitimate use, we curtail the ability for future innovation - unanticipated but legal uses that will benefit consumers.

I know for a fact that anything technology wise can be circumvented. Its been proven time and again by for profit interests that do it for the money and not for profit interests that do it just because they can. For instance: The Xbox from Microsoft was supposed to be unhackable. Now you can run the Linux operating system on it. And why shouldn't a consumer be able to whatever they want with it? The consumer bought and paid for it. It is THEIRS. NOT Microsofts. This consumer broadcast flag is only one of many first steps to taking away rights from consumers. I'm fed up with it and more than angry about this big money interest pushing for control over what I do in my own home.

Supposedly this is the land of the free.

Prove that this country is still free by not giving away my freedoms to groups that are making billions as it is.

Get Rid Of The Broadcast Flag Before It Becomes A Reality.